

Message Text

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47

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-11 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00

INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

OMB-01 ACDA-05 SCCT-01 /094 W

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O 281310Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7517

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

FOSIF ROTA

COMSIXTHFLT

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMCONSUL TANGIER

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 0441

CINCUSNAVEUR AND USCINCEUR ALSO FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PBOR MO SS SP MR

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SUBJECT: MOROCCAN FONMIN CONVOKES REPRESENTATIVES OF SC PERMANENT

MEMBERS ON ALGERIAN INTERVENTION IN SAHARA

1. FONMIN LARAKI CALLED IN JOINTLY REPRESENTATIVES OF FIVE PERMANENT MEMBERS OF SC (US, FRENCH, SOVIET, CPR AMBASSADORS AND BRITISH CHARGE) MORNING JAN. 28 TO INFORM US OF SITUATION IN THE SAHARA IN WAKE OF ALGERIAN-MOROCCAN CLASH PREVIOUS DAY. LARAKI STATED HE WISHED TO INFORM REPRESENTATIVES THAT SITUATION GRAVE, BUT IN SPITE OF ALL PROVOCATIONS MOROCCO WAS REMAINING CALM. SAHARA HAD BEEN TAKEN OVER IN WAKE OF AGREEMENT WITH ADMINISTERING POWER, SPAIN, AND UNDER UN RESOLUTION, HE CONTINUED. GOM MAINTAINING CLOSE CONTACT WITH UN SECYGEN REGARDING APPLICATION OF UN RESOLUTION.

2. LARAKI WENT ON TO STATE THAT EVENTS OF PAST WEEK WERE OF EXCEPTIONAL GRAVITY. HE SAID HE WOULD NOT GO INTO THE DAILY ATTACKS GOING ON AGAINST TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND SOVEREIGNTY OF MAURITANIA OR LANDINGS AT LA GUERA TO SUPPLY F POLISARIO. HOWEVER, MOROCCAN F-5 HAD BEEN SHOT DOWN OVER MAURITANIA, EITHER BY SAM-6 OR 7. (LARAKI COMMENTED HE NOT A MILITARY EXPERT AND NOT SURE WHICH MISSILE INVOLVED.) MOROCCAN AIRCRAFT HAD BEEN OVER MAURITANIAN TERRITORY, WHERE IT HAD BEEN ASSISTING GIRM AT LATTER'S REQUEST. MISSILE COULD HAVE BEEN OPERATED ONLY BY TRAINED PERSONNEL, BE THEY ALGERIAN, CUBAN, VIETNAMESE OR WHATEVER, LARAKI STATED.

3. ON PREVIOUS DAY, LARAKI WENT ON, MOROCCAN FORCES HAD BEEN CLEANING UP AREA OF NORTHEAST SAHARA AND HAD COME ACROSS ALGERIAN "GARRISON". NOT 12, AS REPORTED IN PRESS, BUT 29 ALGERIAN UNIFORMED SOLDIERS HAD BEEN TAKEN PRISONER. THEY HAD NOT BEEN A CONVOY, HE STRESSED, BUT A GARRISON STATIONED IN THE AREA, UNIFORMED REGULARS OF 41ST BATTALION OF ALGERIAN ARMY COMMANDED BY OFFICER NAMED LATRECHE (PHONETIC). THERE COULD BE NO POSSIBLE JUSTIFICATION FOR THEIR PRESENCE, LARAKI UNDERLINED. EVEN THE MOST EXTREME INTERPRETATION OF UN RESOLUTION DID NOT CHARGE ALGERIA WITH POLICING AREA. GOM WISHED PERMANENT MEMBERS OF SECURITY COUNCIL TO BE INFORMED OF SITUATION AND FACT THAT ALGERIANS INTERVENTION FAR FROM ITS BORDERS COULD HAVE GRAVE CONSEQUENCES FOR PEACE IN AREA. GOM WOULD CONTINUE TO CONFIDENTIAL

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MAINTAIN STEADY NERVES AND NOT RESPOND TO PROVOCATIONS WITH OTHER PROVOCATIONS, LARAKI UNDERLINED. NATURALLY, HOWEVER, MOROCCO WOULD DEFEND ITS TERRITORY AT ALL COSTS, HE CONCLUDED.

4. FOLLOWING LARAKI'S PRESENTATION, I ASKED WHETHER MOROCCO HAD ANY PLANS TO CALL FOR A SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING. LARAKI RESPONDED THIS WAS NOT MOROCCAN INTENTION AT THE PRESENT TIME. FRENCH AMB. WONDERED WHETHER GOM HAD CONCRETE PROOF

OF PRESENCE OF VIETNAMESE AND "OTHERS" IN SAHARA. LARAKI REPLIED THAT THERE NOT CONCRETE EVIDENCE, BUT REFERRED TO RECENT VISITS TO ALGERIA BY GIAP AND PALESTINIAN REJECTIONISTS SUCH AS HAWATMEH. HE ALSO NOTED THIS WAS FIRST TIME ALGERIAN MEDIA HAD OFFICIALLY SPOKEN OF ALGERIAN MILITARY

PRESENCE IN SAHARA.

5. SOVIET AMB. INQUIRED WHETHER THERE ANY PROOF THAT SAM-6 MISSILE HAD BEEN USED. LARAKI NOTED THAT PILOT OF A SECOND RJ-5 ACCOMPANYING AIRCRAFT WHICH HAD BEEN SHOT DOWN SAW A MISSILE RISING FROM GROUND. SOVIET AMB. ALSO ASKED WHY SO MUCH EMPHASIS HAD BEEN PUT ON GIAP VISIT TO ALGIERS, INASMUCH AS THERE SEEMED TO BE NOTHING ABNORMAL ABOUT SUCH VISIT IN VIEW OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS EXISTING BETWEEN VIETNAM AND ALGERIA. LARAKI RESPONDED THAT HE WAS SIMPLY CITING FACTS. GIAP HAD MET IN ALGIERS WITH POLISARIO LEADERS, WHOM LARAKI CHARACTERIZED AS "NOTHING BUT ALGERIANS," AND JOINT POLISARIO-VIETNAMESE COMMUNIQUE ISSUED STATING THAT VIETNAM READY TO PLACE ALL ITS EXPERIENCE AT DISPOSAL OF SAHARAN PEOPLE. THUS, LARAKI ASSERTED, HIS COMMENT MORE THAN A DEDUCTION. SOVIET ALSO REQUESTED COPY OF MAP USED BY LARAKI IN PINPOINTING REGION OF AMGALA CLASH, AN INDICATION THAT SOVIET EMBASSY WAS NOT INCLUDED AMONG EMBASSIES BRIEFED BEFOREHAND BY MOROCCAN MILITARY AUTHORPAIES (RABAT 439).

6. COMMENT: LARAKI WAS AT PAINS TO EMPHASIZE GOM INTENTION TO KEEP COOL IN PRESENT RISING TENSIONS. ALTHOUGH GOM APPARENTLY NOT CONTEMPLATING SC ACTION FOR IMMEDIATE FUTURE, IT CLEAR LARAKI PAVING WAY FOR SUCH A MOVE SHOULD SITUATION WORSEN.
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